



VOICE

News for the Campus Community — March 2010

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Perman Named New UMB President



Jay A. Perman

MIKE LURIE

Clifford M. Kendall, chair of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents, has announced the appointment of Jay A. Perman, MD, as president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). Perman is currently dean and vice president for clinical affairs at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine. He will join UMB as president on July 1.

“We are extremely pleased to

welcome Dr. Perman as president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore,” said Kendall.

“He has exhibited great leadership at the University of Kentucky, presiding over substantial growth in research funding for the medical college. His strong oversight of educational agreements for several health professional schools makes him ideally suited to lead UMB.”

“I am highly honored to be the next president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore,” said Perman. “Working with its faculty, staff,

students, and alumni, I relish the opportunity to lead this important institution to even greater heights. The state of Maryland and UMB were my personal and professional home for many years. To come back in this role is a special privilege.”

In 1999, Perman was recruited to the School of Medicine and served as chair of pediatrics and as chief of pediatrics for the University of Maryland Medical System before accepting the UK position.

Since becoming dean at the UK College of Medicine in May 2004,

Perman has overseen the recruitment of nearly 200 faculty members, a 40 percent increase in the number of science faculty and a 30 percent increase in clinical department faculty. Total all-source revenues have grown by \$150 million to \$500 million in the current fiscal year. Based on the most recent data, the College of Medicine rose from 35th to 28th among public medical schools in total funding from the National Institutes of Health.

“I am delighted Dr. Perman has accepted the regents’ appointment,” said USM Chancellor William E. Kirwan, PhD. “His compelling accomplishments as an educator, administrator, and fundraiser at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine position him quite well for the presidency. We have found a national leader who will advance the University’s excellence as a top research university.”

From 1996 to 1999, Perman was the Jessie Ball duPont Professor and Chair in the Department of Pediatrics at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. Before his appointment at VCU, Perman was at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for 12 years, serving as professor of pediatrics and a leader of several important divisions. From 1977 to 1984,

he was an assistant professor and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco.

Perman received a Doctor of Medicine degree with Distinction in 1972 from Northwestern University in Chicago. Following his residency in pediatrics at Northwestern University Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago, in 1975, he completed a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at Harvard Medical School and at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Boston, in 1977.

Perman succeeds UMB President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, who served in the position from 1994 until recently. “The University and the state of Maryland clearly benefited from David’s visionary leadership during the institution’s impressive growth since he became president 15 years ago,” Kirwan said.

Ramsay stepped down on March 1. In the interim, Kirwan appointed E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, as acting president of UMB. Reece has served as vice president for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine since September 2006. His appointment as acting president was effective March 1. Reece will serve as acting president until July 1 when Perman assumes the presidential position.

University Responds to Haiti Crisis



Shock Trauma staffers gather for a photo at St. Francois de Sales hospital in Port-au-Prince.

ED FISHEL

A team of 22 doctors, nurses, and other health professionals from the School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical Center began traveling to Haiti on Jan. 28.

It marked the beginning of a sustained initiative in partnership with Catholic Relief Services to assist with the lifesaving medical care of earthquake survivors. The first team, which stayed in Haiti for a week, was made up of

surgical staff from the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center and four infectious disease specialists from the School of Medicine’s Institute of Human Virology (IHV).

The team brought a large supply of medications and other medical supplies to St. Francois de Sales Hospital—one of Haiti’s oldest hospitals in Port-au-Prince, which was heavily damaged by the earthquake.

The School has a long-standing relationship with the hospital

because it is the site of an HIV/AIDS program operated through a partnership between the IHV and Catholic Relief Services.

About 150 health professionals from throughout the medical center and the School have volunteered to assist with the efforts. Many of them will be on teams rotating to and from Haiti every week for the next few months.

The first team was led by Thomas Scalea, MD, physician-in-chief of Shock Trauma and professor of surgery at the School.

See **HAITI CRISIS** on page 3



A Shock Trauma doctor bandages the leg of a 14-year-old girl at St. Francois de Sales.

LANE HARTILL/CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Snowmageddon Hits University; Dedicated Staffers Brave Storms

ED FISHEL

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus was closed Friday afternoon, Feb. 5, through Thursday, Feb. 11, by two blizzards, but key personnel such as campus police, maintenance workers, lab technicians,

hands-on caregivers, and Maryland Poison Center (MPC) specialists continued to brave the storms and report to work.

School of Nursing professionals, such as Carmen Leitch, Danisha Gallop, Peter Rhee, and Darren Couture made “unbelievable” efforts to cover critical jobs

See **SNOWMAGEDDON** on page 4



Operations and maintenance workers spent long hours clearing UMB streets.

ED FISHEL

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



Richard P. Barth

Today’s national and international transformations will be accompanied by rapid social change that will require social work’s finest effort. A long-standing strength of the social work profession has been the many levels at which social workers operate. At the University of Maryland School of Social Work, we educate graduate students to succeed at every level of intervention from working with autistic children to leading international aid organizations. The breadth of this work is more important than ever to cross all economic, organizational, and international boundaries.

Our faculty, staff, and students are primed to accelerate the difference we have made for nearly 50 years. The School of Social Work’s array of projects continues to expand as we build our capacity for larger and more rigorous efforts to facilitate the change of individuals, families, and communities. Recently, we have developed a range of new supporters including the Bank of America and Citi Group and have expanded course and research efforts in the areas of financial social work and intimate partner violence. We also have launched a very promising initiative with Union Memorial Hospital and Keswick Multi-Care Center to improve social work

training in hospital and nursing care, and at the interface between them.

Instead of focusing my message on the School’s new initiatives, as I have done in the past, I want to recognize people in the School who are implementing great ongoing research, teaching, and service programs while adding innovative efforts.


In the last few years, we have seen an extraordinary change in the School. Since mid-2006 about 40 percent of our tenure track faculty are new and we have hired a half-dozen research assistant professors and many other superb professionals to greatly extend our capacity to complete major research and demonstration projects. We created a Sponsored Projects Office, which has grown from one to 10 very busy people.

I know that our School is not materially different from the others on campus in following this course of, sometimes, exhilarating change and I want to salute all of the newly hired, assigned, and promoted faculty and staff who make this such an exciting University. All of our progress—the shining buildings, the impressive centers, and the collection of grants—arises from

the creativity and tenacity of our faculty and staff. From my first day, I have found the University of Maryland, Baltimore to be a welcoming and highly productive place and I believe that continues to be true. I look forward to working with all of our colleagues and friends to see that it remains a rewarding place.

Finally, I struggle to imagine the University without the supportive, steady steering of President Ramsay. In his time here, he brought in a bevy of inspiring deans and impressive facilities on nearly every corner of our expanding footprint. The work that the School is pursuing in West Baltimore has roots older than his or mine here, but there is no doubt that he greatly accelerated the success of our University-community partnerships. I know that I speak for our faculty and staff in saying that we have been greatly privileged by the opportunity to work with him.

Happy Social Work Month!



Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW
Dean and Professor, School of Social Work

Former Peace Corps Executive Joins Social Work School



Jody Olsen

PATRICIA FANNING

Jody Olsen, PhD, MSW, who most recently served as acting director of the Peace Corps, has joined the School of Social Work as a visiting professor. She had been deputy director of the Peace Corps for the previous

seven years after having begun her distinguished international career in 1966 as a volunteer in Tunisia.

Olsen’s responsibilities will be “to assist in the development of international programs, public service initiatives, and to contribute to the teaching of management, international social work, and community practice courses as a resource and occasional lecturer,” says Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, dean of the School.

Barth designated Olsen as coordinator of the School’s response to the Haiti earthquake, which occurred only days before she arrived on campus for the spring semester. She is collaborating with other University leaders in overseeing the School’s outreach efforts, starting with the Haitian community in the Baltimore-Washington area.

“This is the beginning of what can be a long reconstruction effort that will enrich our work here at the School and give desperately needed assistance to the people of Haiti,

whether in their own country or here in our metropolitan neighborhoods,” says Olsen.

Among her first accomplishments in her new position, Olsen joined Dick Cook, MSW, director of the School’s Social Work Community Outreach Service, in leading a group of 15 students to El Salvador in early January. The group met with organizations and individuals who serve that country’s most disadvantaged residents. It also met with people involved in a generation-long rebuilding process following their civil war.

Olsen has traveled to more than 80 countries, including Haiti. As she ascended to the executive level during three separate stints in the Peace Corps, which mandates turnover to bring in fresh perspectives, Olsen says she relied on her MSW. “It prepared me as much as I think any degree could have prepared someone” for a career in public policy and for leadership, she says.

As chief of staff of the Peace Corps in 1989, she took on the aftermath of two very

different international events: the Tiananmen Square massacre in China and the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany. She went on to oversee the opening of the agency’s first office program in Hungary and other Eastern European countries, noting the cultural challenges during this period of significant change.

Olsen has held executive positions at the University of Maryland Center on Aging, at the Academy for Educational Development Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, and at the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. The latter manages the Fulbright Senior Scholar Program.

A 1972 graduate of the School of Social Work, Olsen earned a PhD from the University of Maryland College of Education and has served as president of the University of Maryland Alumni Association. The Utah native received her bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Utah. She lives in Silver Spring, Md.

Gifts of Various Sizes Add up to Big Total in Capital Campaign

JEFFREY RAYMOND AND CHRIS ZANG

It takes many elements to make a masterpiece. Likewise, a successful capital campaign, such as the multiyear “Making an Impact Worldwide” initiative at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), is comprised of various strokes of generosity.

More than halfway to its goal of raising \$650 million by the end of the 2012 fiscal year, the University’s capital campaign has benefited from gifts of all sizes and shapes that have made their way to the schools and the campus. Although cash is always the preferred currency, the University’s development teams are often approached about receiving interesting collections and objects, lab and clinical equipment, real estate, business interests, and other special assets.

Even though not all such gifts can be accepted, they are an indication of how sophisticated the development efforts on the campus have become over the years. Similarly, bequests and planned gifts have become integral to achieving campaign success.

“One of the most impressive achievements of the campaign is the notable increase in gifts in the six- and seven-figure category,” says Thomas Hofstetter, JD, LLM, the University’s interim associate vice president of development and alumni relations. “These gifts have come from many sources—alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations. Each of the schools on campus has been the recipient of such gifts and recognizes that gifts of that magnitude are critical to campaign success.”

Hofstetter points out that Fiscal Year

2009 was the fifth consecutive year that UMB has met or gone beyond its fundraising objective in spite of a difficult economic environment.

T. Sue Gladhill, MSW, UMB’s vice president for external affairs and president and CEO of the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (UMBF), attributes the University’s fundraising successes to the long-term efforts of each school’s development staff and the important volunteers, including the UMBF Board of Trustees.

When asked if any particular gift has made a special impact upon the campus, Gladhill says, “Perhaps the most notable campaign gift to date is the \$5 million gift that resulted in the naming of the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, which, since

its opening last fall, has quickly become ‘the place to meet.’”

To have private philanthropy support such a visible campus venue tells the rest of the world that, from a fundraising perspective, we have arrived. Gladhill says, “When you get right down to it, alumni and friends now have a greater appreciation of the importance and value of making donations to UMB. It appears that we are successfully messaging that we rely heavily on support from the private sector in addition to the support we receive from the state of Maryland. And, of course, we greatly appreciate our donors’ generous response to our outreach.”

To learn more about the Making an Impact Worldwide capital campaign, visit <http://capitalcampaign.umaryland.edu/home.htm>.

Pharmacy Names Associate Dean, Program Director



Richard Dalby

Richard Dalby, PhD, a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), has been named the School of Pharmacy’s associate dean for academic affairs. In this role, Dalby will have oversight for the School’s educational programs including experiential learning, pathways and dual degrees, assessment and accreditation, and continuing pharmacy education.

Dalby has been on faculty at the School since 1992. He has chaired many of the School’s standing committees, has served as vice chair of PSC, and has twice been director of that department’s graduate program.

“Dr. Dalby has long been recognized as an innovator in education from his leadership role in the development and implementation of several required and elective courses, to his teaching awards, which include School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year and Distinguished Educator of the Year,” says Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, dean of the School. “I look forward to working with Dr. Dalby and know that he will bring energy, innovation, and experience to his new role as associate dean.”

In addition to his excellence in teaching, Dalby is an internationally recognized researcher and consultant in the area of nasal and pulmonary drug delivery systems. Since 1993, he has directed an Inhalation Aerosol Technology Workshop at the School that attracts hundreds of attendees. He is a fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

“I am honored to have been asked by Dean Eddington to serve as associate dean



Jia Bei Wang

for academic affairs,” says Dalby. “In this role, my goals are to simplify academic policies, ensure that the School of Pharmacy retains its accreditation during its next review in 2011, collect assessment data that guides decision-making, and support and explore ways that educational offerings can extend beyond the existing student body and generate shared revenue.”

Jia Bei Wang, MD, PhD, a faculty member at the School of Pharmacy since 1995, is the new graduate program director for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In her new position, Wang will focus on continuing the recruitment of the highest quality graduate students, strengthening interactions with graduate alumni, and overseeing the National Institutes of Health training grant initiative.

With a distinguished record in research, service, and education, Wang is a world-renowned leader in the area of the molecular pharmacology of opioid receptors, with an emphasis on mechanisms of opioid tolerance. She has received R01 funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and is the recipient of a K02 Independent Scientist Award from NIDA.

Wang has mentored many successful graduate students, acted as chair of the Pharmacology and Neuroscience Research Focus Group within the department, and chaired numerous faculty searches. Wang also brings significant experience from serving on the NIDA-K Study Section, which focuses on reviewing training programs and fellowships.

School of Nursing Celebrates National Nurse Anesthetists Week

PATRICIA ADAMS

What is a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA)? What do they do? What does it take to become one?

These were some of the questions addressed when the School of Nursing celebrated National Nurse Anesthetists Week on Jan. 24-30. Lobby displays and handouts provided information about the roles of nurse anesthetists and the School’s nurse anesthesia master’s specialty. A hands-on learning scenario offered the opportunity to try several anesthesia techniques on a simulated “patient.”

First introduced in 2000, National Nurse Anesthetists Week recognizes the profession and builds awareness about the work of nurse anesthetists.

“This special week allows us to showcase not only the work of nurse anesthetists, but also the School’s program and the work of our graduates,” says Lou Heindel, DNP, CRNA, assistant professor and director of the program.



Lou Heindel (right) instructs nursing student Michael Clark on an anesthesia technique.

The School of Nursing enrolled its first nurse anesthesia students in the fall of 2004 in response to a statewide shortage of CRNAs. Since the inaugural class graduated in December 2006, more than 80 nurses have completed the CRNA program.

“Our program prepares students to administer all types of anesthesia to a diverse diagnostic and surgical population,” says Heindel. “While graduates of our program are providing anesthesia services to hospitals and health care systems across the nation, it is important to note that more than 85 percent of them have remained in Maryland.”

CRNAs administer approximately 30 million anesthetics to patients each year. As advance practice nurses, they enjoy a high degree of autonomy and professional respect. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered, and have been the main providers of anesthesia care to combat troops since World War I, including the conflict in Iraq.

From **HAITI CRISIS** on page 1

Scalea and other Shock Trauma staff have unique expertise in the types of traumatic injuries—orthopaedic as well as spine and head injuries—they expected to treat in Haiti.

The first team also included Andrew Pollak, MD, and Robert Redfield, MD. They traveled to Haiti previously to assess the medical needs for the team’s mission. Pollak is an associate professor of orthopaedics at the School and the head of Orthopaedic Trauma at Shock Trauma. Redfield is a professor of medicine and

director of Clinical Care and Research at the IHV and the chief of infectious diseases at the medical center.

From across campus, offers of support for Haiti have been numerous. Former University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, issued a statement regarding the UMB response to the crisis. Richard P. Barth, PhD, MSW, dean of the School of Social Work, emphasized that this will be “a long-term effort both in Haiti and in domestic communities with growing Haitian populations.”



Shock Trauma orthopaedic surgeon Cullen Griffith, right, helps to wheel a patient to the salvaged radiology department at St. Francois de Sales.

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DENTAL SCHOOL

Stuart Josell, DMD, MDentSci, chair of the Department of Orthodontics, was named the recipient of the 2009 Faculty Award, presented by the American College of Dentists.

SCHOOL OF LAW

The School of Law was ranked first among the top 10 law schools with alumni named in the 2010 edition of *Maryland Super Lawyers*. Approximately 274 School of Law graduates from more than 70 practice areas were recognized as outstanding lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. For more details, visit www.superlawyers.com/maryland.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Curt Civin, MD, associate dean for research, director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, and professor in the Department of Pediatrics, received the prestigious Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award and Lectureship for his pioneering research discoveries relating to the cellular and molecular biology of the stem and progenitor cell, including the identification and isolation of the CD34+ blood-forming stem-progenitor cell, which dramatically improved cellular therapies and bone marrow transplantation.

Virginia Keane, MD, associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics, was awarded the Pediatrician of the Year Award by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Robert Redfield, MD, professor in the Department of Medicine and associate director of the Institute of Human Virology, received a five-year, \$8.05 million President s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) grant through the Centers for Disease Control National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. The grant will enable the University of Maryland to work with the government of Kenya to assess and strengthen HIV training for key medical personnel. This grant, the first of its kind to be funded through PEPFAR, will integrate pre-service HIV education and in-service HIV training to ensure that the country of Kenya has a sustainable system for educating and continuously developing health care providers through the entire continuum of care delivery. The grant is expected to expand within Kenya during the funding time period, and will act as a model for other countries seeking to streamline HIV education by linking education and service delivery.

Michael Terrin, MD, CM, MPH, professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive

Medicine, received a seven-year, \$30.7 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for the establishment of a Progenitor Cell Biology Consortium Administrative Coordinating Center. The goal of this initiative is to develop a highly interactive and synergistic consortium of investigators who will share ideas, data, and resources to move the field of progenitor cell biology forward.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Elizabeth Galik, PhD, RN, assistant professor, received the 2010 Rising New Investigator Award from the Southern Nursing Research Society at its annual conference held Feb. 3 to 6 in Austin, Texas. The award recognizes the contributions of a rising investigator who has conducted gerontological nursing research that has the potential to enhance the science and practice of gerontological nursing.

The third edition of *Palliative Care Nursing: Quality Care to the End of Life*, co-authored by **Deborah Witt Sherman, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN, FAAN**, professor and assistant dean for research, has been published by Springer Publishers in New York.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Dean **Natalie D. Eddington, PhD**,

has been appointed by Governor Martin O Malley to the newly created Federal Facilities Advisory Board. The 16-member board will work to develop a comprehensive assessment of how Maryland can best support and leverage the vast potential of its more than 50 federal facilities. Additionally, it will work to connect Maryland companies with federal opportunities for the creation of jobs.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Jodi Jacobson, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, and current PhD student **Andrea Jones** published *Standards for the EAP Profession: Isn t it Time We All Start Speaking the Same Language?* in the *Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health*.

Professor Emeritus **Howard Palley, PhD, MS**, published *Transforming Long-Term Care Pain Management in North America: The Policy-Clinical Interface* in *Pain Medicine*.

Assistant Professor **Tanya Sharpe, PhD, MSW**; Professor and Associate Dean for Research **Diane DePanfilis, PhD, MSW**; Clinical Associate Professor **Fred Strieder, PhD, MSSA**; and Research Coordinator **Gillian Gregory, MSW**, published *Replicating the Family Connections Program: Lessons Learned From Grandparents* in *Protecting Children*.

From **SNOWMAGEDDON** on page 1

such as seeing cancer patients, processing blood samples, even risking life and limb to shovel open the School’s front door, according to Susan Dorsey, PhD, RN. “They were coming in every day to check the satellite facility that we maintain in the nursing school and also to download crucial data from experiments. None of us [faculty] could get in and they did, despite foul weather. ... They are certainly our unsung heroes...” she says. There were many others who made their way through the storm every day of the crisis, Dorsey says.

To remain open around the clock, the MPC at the School of Pharmacy encouraged its dedicated employees to extend what are normally 12-hour shifts.

The director of operations for the center, Bruce Anderson, PharmD, says, “We had stocked up prior to the snow with a lot of food, a blow-up bed, a sleeping bag, and some personal care items to help make the expected stay a bit more comfortable.”

Nonetheless, “Folks were pretty tired by the end of their shifts. Unfortunately, it was a busy weekend as well,” he says, referring to the volume of calls made by the public to the toll-free hot line, 1-800-222-1222.

During the height of the blizzard Wednesday night, MPC staffers were unable to get to work. After a series of calls, it was determined that the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and city government officials had no more Humvees to pick up personnel. UMB Police Chief Antonio Williams, MS, and Col. Milland

Reed worked on the problem. Cpl. Thomas Darnell, using a four-wheel-drive police vehicle, was able to make the trip to Catonsville to pick up one MPC staffer and bring her to work.

Also, Wednesday evening, the Ronald McDonald House invited the campus police working the third shift to stop by and enjoy a hot turkey dinner. Two officers, including Cpl. Jim Brown, accepted the offer and discovered that one of the families had an 8-year-old girl who needed PediaCare. Because all drugstores were closed by the storm, Brown and Pfc. Tasha McCoy-Smith made the trip to the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) Pediatric Emergency Room, which provided medicine for the girl.

Reed says, “This was an example of the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus police and the University of Maryland Medical Center coming together to help someone in need.”

UMMC remained open throughout the storm and UMMC President Jeffrey Rivest sent a letter to “personally thank the hundreds of dedicated staff who have done heroic things for our patients during the past five days—through two record-breaking blizzards!”

Rivest says, “I am proud to tell you that as this second storm was beginning, UMMC and our fantastic teams cared for 119 admissions, along with hundreds of emergent visits and procedures. These patient volumes reflect a typical day for us. We didn’t skip a beat thanks to you.”

The vice president for nursing and operations at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Karen Doyle, MBA, MS, RN, cited many examples of staff who made extraordinary efforts. They include Liz Regan, RN, who walked three miles in snowshoes to get to work or Emily Clark, RN, who housed five to six nurses at her home and provided home-cooked chicken broccoli casserole and tacos.

Other examples were Lisa Powell with the Neurotrauma Intermediate Care unit, who stayed for several days to ensure coverage for her unit, and materials manager Tim Williams, who stayed seven days to make sure everyone had their supplies. Doyle noted that the Shock Trauma nursing staff includes many graduates from the School of Nursing.

UMB Operations and Maintenance staff began working to keep campus roads and sidewalks open at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 5, and stayed on the job for the next seven days. Through it all, the crews used plows, shovels, Bobcats, and snowblowers to keep the campus roads and sidewalks clear. Just as important as the crews on the street were the maintenance operators who had to make repairs to the equipment to keep it running.

Through it all, their morale was high and often they were joking and kidding with one another. James McGinnis of the electrical shop and Wayne O’Donnell from the multitrade shop drove Bobcats, but they also split their time working with snowblowers and shovels.

John Wilson took the lead directing the handworkers, relocating them to various areas of the campus with the proper equipment. He said, “I’m here to stay until the job gets done.”

When asked what sacrifices he was making, another crew member, David Fultz, said, “Sure it would be nice to be home with the wife and kids, but we have to keep the campus open and safe and besides, it’s kind of fun working with a great group of guys... We have formed a bond and the camaraderie is great.”

Dave DeLooze, assistant director for operations and maintenance, says, throughout the two storms, the crews “performed in Herculean fashion.”

Far from campus, some made hazardous trips to perform UMB duties. School of Social Work student Annette Hackey-Runion drove from Dickerson, Md., to Westminster, Md., to fulfill her role at Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc. Trained in financial social work as a Maryland Community Fellow, she helped prepare and file three tax returns for low-income families.

“To each of those households, it made a difference that Annette decided to show up,” says Holly Hutchins, the nonprofit agency’s deputy director of human services, adding that it was no surprise that “she was willing to go above and beyond. Her attitude and work ethic mirror those of our best staff members.”

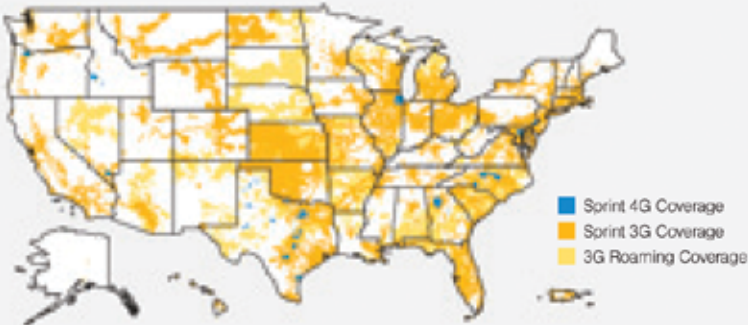


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May require up to a \$36 activation fee/line, credit approval and deposit. Up to \$200 early termination fee/line applies. **Overdrive 3G/4G Mobile Hotspot:** Offer ends 4/17/10. While supplies last. \$149.99 (two-year price) - \$50 (mail-in rebate) = \$99.99 (final price). Taxes and service charges excluded. No cash back. Requires activation at the time of purchase. Mobile Broadband Card data plan required. **Mail-in Rebate:** Requires purchase by 4/17/10 and activation by 5/01/10. Line must be active 30 consecutive days. Allow 10 to 14 weeks for rebate. **Upgrade:** Existing customers in good standing with service on the same device for more than 22 consecutive months currently activated on a service plan of \$39.99 or higher may be eligible. See in-store rebate form or sprint.com/upgrade for details. **3G/4G Connection Plan:** Offer ends 4/17/10. **3G Usage:** Includes 5GB of data usage. Add'l data usage \$0.05/MB. **3G Usage Limitation:** Sprint reserves the right to limit throughput speeds or amount of data transferred; and to deny, terminate, modify, disconnect or suspend service if usage either exceeds (1) 5GB/month in total or (2) 300 MB/month while off-network roaming. 1,024 KB equal 1 MB. 1,024 MB equal 1 GB. 3G Data Usage Limitation does not apply to 4G usage. **Other Terms:** Coverage not available everywhere. The 3G Sprint Mobile Broadband Network (including roaming) reaches over 273 million people. Sprint 4G is available in 25 markets and counting. See sprint.com/4G for details. Not all services avail. on 4G and coverage may default to 3G/separate network where 4G unavailable. Offers not available in all markets/retail locations or for all phones/networks. Pricing, offer terms, fees and features may vary for existing customers not eligible for upgrade. Other restrictions apply. See store or sprint.com for details. ©2010 Sprint. Sprint and the logo are trademarks of Sprint. Other marks are the property of their respective owners.

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UMB Scientists Find New Use for Near-Infrared Spectroscopy: Pill Quality

STEVE BERBERICH

Scientists at the University of Maryland, Baltimore have successfully used near-infrared spectroscopy (NIR)—a method already used to test farm product quality—to predict how quickly pills dissolve in the body.

The experiments could lead to cost savings for drug makers and more consistency in the quality of pills, says Stephen Hoag, PhD, a professor at the School of Pharmacy.

In a study published recently in the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*, Hoag and his colleagues used NIR to accurately predict the dissolution rate of a matrix-type controlled release tablet. Matrix tablets release their medication from the inside controlled by physical polymers that slow the process.

In 2008, the team successfully tested NIR

technology on coated tablets that release slowly because of compounds in the coating. The team develops systematic methods for formulating controlled and immediate release tablets.

“This may be a very narrow topic, but I think it will someday have huge implications for pharmacy, as [NIR] can also do ID testing, that is, it would relieve pharmacists of the need to routinely inspect every prescription,” says Hoag.

Using NIR for identifying ingredients in pills also will help regulators. “For identification testing, anytime you bring in a material in the drug-making process, the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] wants real data proving that the material really is that material,” Hoag says. He said it may be possible to use the new technology to avert consumer

disasters such as the tainting of cough medications, which killed 40 people in Panama in 2006.

“This is a fundamental change because the drug industry used to test a pill for dissolution, then send a sample for analysis to a wet lab,” says Hoag. “Now with near-infrared, high-speed computers, and software, you can get information in real time. So instead of evaluating each step and waiting three days for samples to come back, it is instant. It impacts inventory, materials, space for storage, and shortens the manufacturing time—all things that have financial implications and you know industry is under a lot of pressure to cut costs in health care.”

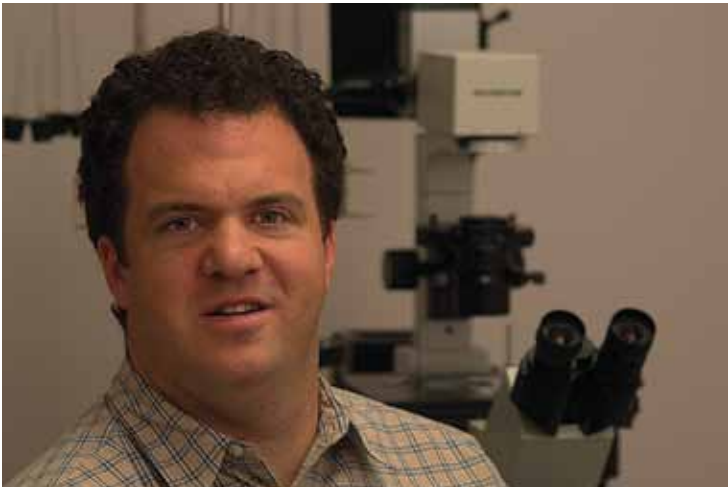
He says in the competitive pharmaceutical industry, cost savings with NIR identification would trickle down to the patient.



Stephen Hoag

Although the profit margin on the average pharmaceutical is often very high, a small cost savings in production with NIR testing may make more and more of a difference to companies as they produce more complex biologics or biology-based therapies.

New Nursing Center to Study Neuroregulatory Disorders



Christopher Ward

STEVE BERBERICH

People tend to think of muscular dystrophy, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and chronic pain as individual conditions, but Christopher Ward, PhD, associate professor at the School of Nursing, says they are not.

The complexities of how these and similar diseases manifest themselves in people present exciting opportunities for the School’s new organized research center, the Center of Excellence in Disorders of Neuroregulatory Function.

Broadly, the center covers two main research foci: the mechanisms of treatment-induced chronic pain and diseases leading to dysfunction in skeletal and heart muscle.

Ward says one focus of the center is finding genetic modifiers. “Based on genetic variation between patients, some have better disease outcomes. If we can understand why some people do better, we can understand how to develop new therapies.”

New opportunities for the new center don’t stop with the variances in the diseases, says Ward. “We have a unique opportunity to conduct studies that span the breadth of research from basic to pure clinical,” he says. “Ours is one of a

few schools of nursing that support the full scope of basic to clinical biomedical research.”

The mission of the center is to advance the science of the mechanisms, diagnoses, and management of clinical disease states resulting from disorders of neuroregulatory function. In addition to building research capacities, the center will focus on educating students of nursing and other disciplines at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels to conduct research or to be fully participating members of interdisciplinary research teams.

Janet D. Allan, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the School, says, “We are extraordinarily proud to announce the establishment of the School of Nursing’s new Center of Excellence in Disorders of Neuroregulatory Function. This achievement marks the latest demonstration of the dynamic growth of research activities at the School, whose strong national rankings and recognition continue to gain in importance.”

The center is funded by extramural grants. Eric Hoffman, PhD, who is also director of the Center for Genetic Medicine Research at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., is one of the grant’s co-investigators, along with Ward, on genetic modifiers.

Student Exit Interviews Scheduled

Exit interviews are mandatory for all University students graduating on May 21 who received federal student loans. Students can only attend a session that is scheduled for their School or pro-

gram. Further details will be provided to students via e-mail from their schools. For more information or if you have questions, please call 6-6574.

Dental Hygiene 5 p.m. April 22 Dental School Room G-307	School of Medicine 10 a.m. and noon March 19 SMC Campus Center Room 208
Dental School 1 p.m. March 26 and 1 p.m. April 16 Southern Management Corporation Campus Center (SMC) Room 208	School of Nursing Noon April 5 Universities at Shady Grove 5 p.m. April 19 SMC Campus Center Rooms 208, 210
Genetic Counseling 10:30 a.m. April 22 SMC Campus Center Room 351	School of Pharmacy 3 p.m. April 26 and 27 SMC Campus Center Room 208
Graduate School 9 a.m. and noon April 30 SMC Campus Center Room 349 5 p.m. May 4 SMC Campus Center Room 208	Physical Therapy 9 a.m. May 17 SMC Campus Center Room 208
School of Law 3:30 and 5 p.m. March 31 SMC Campus Center Room 208 3:30 and 5 p.m. April 15 SMC Campus Center Room 351	School of Social Work 12:15 p.m. April 9 SMC Campus Center Rooms 208, 210 5 p.m. April 12 SMC Campus Center Rooms 208, 210
Medical and Research Technology 11:15 a.m. April 6 Allied Health Building Room 319	

Campus Events Corner



Commencement
Save the Date for Commencement 2010! UMB’s convocation and commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, May 21 at 1st Mariner Arena. Discount hotel and restaurant information is now available online! Please visit www.umb.edu/commencement.

Discount Hippodrome Tickets
The Office of University Events has partnered with the Hippodrome Theatre to offer bargain tickets to *Phantom of the Opera*, *The 39 Steps*, and more!

- Search for seats online and print tickets at your desk
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- Contact events@umaryland.edu for more information.
- *STOMP*, March 16-28
 - *Phantom of the Opera*, April 8-May 9
 - *The 39 Steps*, June 1-13

MLK Event Sheds Light on Little-Known Pioneers



2010 student award winners Domonique Markland (right) and Sarah Weese with then University President David Ramsay.



Sharon Saunders with now acting University President E. Albert Reece at the MLK Commemoration.

PATRICIA FANNING

Speaking to an audience drawn from throughout the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), then President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, said that aspects of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream and “the kind of world he worked toward” can be found on campus today.

Ramsay’s remarks on Feb. 3 at the Medical School Teaching Facility auditorium opened the 2010 commemoration of King’s birthday and Black History Month.

The keynote speech was delivered by C. Fraser Smith, a longtime Baltimore political journalist and author of *Here Lies Jim Crow: Civil Rights in Maryland*. Smith, a former *Baltimore Sun* reporter who now appears on WYPR-FM and in *The Daily Record*, observed that the story of civil rights is largely about action taken by people whom few know. “It went on for decades before, during, and after the period we think of as the civil rights movement.”

He spoke of Donald Gaines Murray, a pioneering black student at the School of Law who graduated in 1938, and of Esther McCready, the first black student at the School of Nursing, who graduated in 1953. At the time that McCready was admitted, Murray was one of the lawyers representing her, Smith said.

After the keynote speech the Martin Luther King Jr. awards, given annually to members of the faculty and student body who embody the personal and professional commitment to King’s ideals, were presented.

The 2010 student recipients are Domonique Markland and Sarah Weese of the School of Law. Together they have logged more than 700 hours in the Community Justice Clinic over the past 18 months, instructing young men, ages 14 to 17 at the Baltimore City Detention Center, who are awaiting trial on adult charges.

The time the pair has spent with the youth, including over holidays and during the summer, has improved the boys’ decision-making skills and contributed to a decrease in violent incidents at the facility. Phoebe A. Haddon, JD, LLM, dean of the School of Law, joined in the presentation.

Winner of the 2010 faculty award is Elijah Saunders, MD, FACC, FACP, FAHA, professor in the School of Medicine and a leading authority on the diagnosis, treatment, and control of hypertension in African-Americans. A 1960 graduate of the School, he was its first black resident in internal medicine and the first black cardiologist in the state. He continues to be an honored teacher, mentor, and medical care provider.

In his absence, due to a scheduling conflict, the award was accepted by his wife, Sharon Saunders, MD, a clinical assistant professor at the School of Medicine. E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, now acting University president, joined in the presentation.

Legally Sound, an a cappella group made up of students from the School of Law, provided musical entertainment at the commemoration.

Outreach Council Continues Programs for Local Students

BRIAN STURDIVANT

Baltimore City schoolchildren of all ages are benefiting thanks to the ongoing efforts of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Outreach Council. In the summer and fall of 2009, the council developed an after-school youth leadership and mentoring program at a local elementary and middle school while offering high school students opportunities to participate in internships on the UMB campus through a pilot internship program.

Called CLUB UMB, the effort provides

after-school programming for fourth- and fifth-graders at George Washington Elementary School on Monday afternoons and for seventh- and eighth-graders at Diggs-Johnson Middle School on Thursday afternoons. The program works to support college and career awareness and to promote science and health education through interactive demonstrations developed and implemented by UMB students, faculty, and staff from the UMB Outreach Council.

From June through December 2009, campus volunteers provided more than 400 hours of group and individual mentor-

ing for participants with about 65 campus volunteers serving as mentors and presenters. Sonali Nijhawan, a School of Social Work student interning with the Office of External Affairs as operations coordinator for CLUB UMB, says that the experience has allowed her to connect with the students and members of her neighboring community. “I especially like that I am able to encourage the students to recognize their ability to succeed as students in the classroom as well as leaders in their community. These students have the potential to do anything they desire, I look forward to seeing their amazing accomplishments in the months to come,” says Nijhawan.

Additionally, during the fall of 2009, the UMB Outreach Council piloted an internship program for seniors at Vivien

T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy. The internship program hosts high school seniors in placements across the UMB campus. Students have new placements for the spring 2010 semester where they will work through May 2010.

The UMB Outreach Council’s vision is to provide enriched educational, health, and career experiences and opportunities to children in community schools. The UMB Outreach Council strives to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in campus outreach efforts to strengthen the social impact of UMB in the community, create enduring positive relationships, and engender future Maryland leaders.

With Survey Complete, University Web Site Redesign Gets Under Way

DANIELLE PETERSON

When the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s (UMB) Web site was last designed in 2005, the University was gearing up for its bicentennial. Now in early 2010, UMB’s site is going through another redesign effort, which is a joint project between the Office of Communications and Marketing in the Office of External Affairs and the Center for Information Technology Services. Because UMB is such a unique

campus, much of the redesign work has focused on extensive research, including comparisons to other higher education Web sites and studying the latest trends in development and design technologies.

Over the last few months, the redesign team has collected feedback from the UMB community, through an online survey conducted from October to December 2009. The University received more than 100 responses. Web visitors representing students, faculty, and staff provided feedback

on the state of the current site and offered suggestions for desired new features.

While opinions varied as to what information should be on the home page, many people asked for an attractive Web site that is easy to navigate; respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the current UMB site lacks a cohesive navigational structure. One response described the site as “UMB station,” which functions as “a railroad with tracks in seven directions: six schools and admin.”

Additionally, many noted the importance of visual appeal, asking for better use of new media. “There should be a better use of interactive media, personal testimonials from students, and video clips,” explains one response.

Survey respondents offered insight about how the UMB Web site should play a role in the marketing of the University: “The

information on the home page should attract visitors and draw them back to the Web site.” Others expressed the importance of defining the Web site’s goal and audience: “The University is about its people and there is little info about the good and interesting endeavors of the people at UMB.”

The redesign team recognizes many of the issues brought to light by the survey and will work to improve both the aesthetic value and the functionality of UMB’s Web site. The survey, in addition to extensive research on higher education Web sites, is an important part of ensuring that the new design accurately reflects the University, provides an easy-to-follow system of navigation and information, and also addresses the internal functions of the UMB community.

For complete statistical survey data, visit <http://umbredesign.wordpress.com>.

GREEN CORNER

University Makes Green Energy Leap

The University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents recently advanced the state’s commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by approving the award of four renewable energy projects that will produce more than 20 percent of the annual electric needs for all system schools and state agencies.

The four regional energy projects will provide a combination of land-based wind, off-shore wind, and solar-produced energy power. The two land-based wind projects are due to come online during 2011 and will provide approximately 14 percent of the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s (UMB) required renewable energy. The solar-based project, which is scheduled to come online in January 2013, will increase the University’s use of renewable energy to 15 percent.

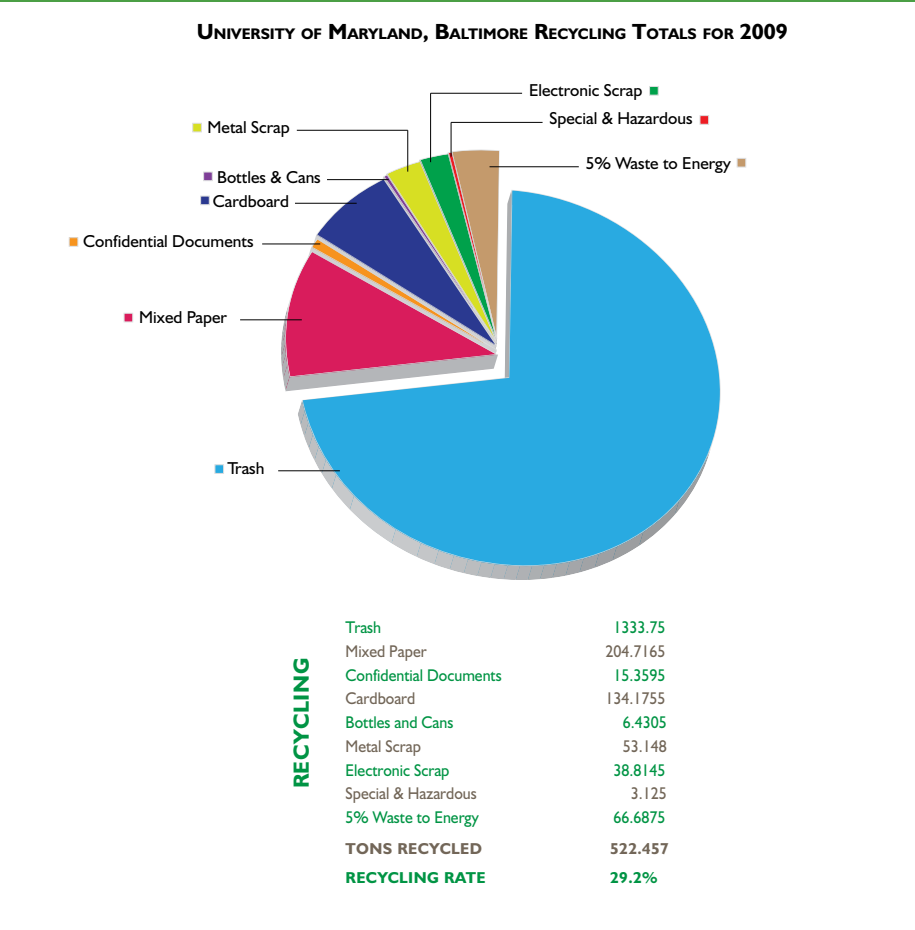
In January 2014, with the completion of the off-shore wind project, UMB

will achieve its goal of 20 percent—eight years earlier than required by the Maryland Renewable Standards.

When renewable energy deliveries begin in 2011:

- UMB’s carbon footprint will be reduced 7.6 percent—the equivalent of 12,000 metric tons of CO₂
- 14 percent of UMB’s total electrical purchases will be renewable power—that’s more than 18 million kilowatt hours

USM, working with the state of Maryland, also is advancing its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality as outlined in the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. For more information, visit www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org. To see UMB’s climate action plan, go to www.umb.fm.umaryland.edu/sus/2009%20CAP.pdf.



Medical Researcher Invents Possible Means to Slow Spread of Cancer Cells

STEVE BERBERICH

Methods to rid cancer cells of microtentacles, extensions that may help the cells spread from primary tumors to different organs, have been invented by a team of medical researchers at the School of Medicine.

Headed by Stuart Martin, PhD, an associate professor at the School, the team, which first discovered the microtentacles in 2007, also has defined the composition of cancer cell microtentacles, showing that they differ from similar microtentacles that healthy cells generate.

Defining the composition of the cancer cell microtentacles “gives us targets to hit with drugs,” says Martin. “We have identified three important targets so far within microtentacles. Drugs that attack the targets are part of the invention, too.”

Normal epithelial cells are programmed to die shortly after breaking away from barriers such as the lungs, liver, pancreas or other organs. But a free-floating cancer cell, coming off an epithelial barrier, can maintain a persistent, wound-healing mode for weeks, months or even years. Being in a foreign environment makes them aggressive, says Martin.

Martin studies the natural recycling of cells from the barriers enclosing organs. Such epithelial cells can’t just “fall to the ground” like sloughed off skin cells, he says. Instead, they are programmed to die when detached from their home organ, so that they do not become disorganized in the body. When they slough or cast off, cell pressure is released, causing fortifying structures inside the cells called microtubules to push against the inside barrier of the cell, causing the microtentacles, which are outside of the cell, to grow longer. It then appears like a sea anemone or a scrub



Stuart Martin

brush. When forced through small capillaries, normal cells are crushed. But cancer cells with persistent microtentacles stick to blood vessel walls and can escape narrow capillaries to metastasize into the pancreas, liver, lung or another body part, says Martin. Testing and marketing drugs to control cancer cell microtentacles may require partnering with a biopharmaceutical company. “We can’t possibly investigate all the questions that come up with this and develop it all the way through to the clinic completely on our own,” Martin says. “We are going to need some help.” His research team will continue in the discovery stages of the development. “Where our work comes in is that researchers have not really thought about the dynamic motion of circulating tumor cells. That’s what we are working on, and it may lead us to both new cancer drugs and reveal risks of current chemotherapies.”

Environmental Health and Safety Director Remembered



Jeffrey Kiefer, MAS, CPM, CWCP, associate director of risk management and administration in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), died Feb. 14. Kiefer had been at UMB since 1992 with nearly 26 years of service to the University System of Maryland. As the University’s risk manager, Kiefer was in charge of workers’ compensation, University insurance, and administration of the Environmental Health and Safety office, for which he initiated the automated external defibrillator (AED) program on campus. “He was an institutional resource. Everyone looked to him for advice,” says Patrick Wolf, MBA, assistant director of operations for EHS. “He was the glue that kept this office together. It’s a big loss for the University and he will be sorely missed.” Kiefer is survived by his wife, Judith Kiefer; his daughters, Stephanie and Abigail; his brother, Randolph Kiefer; his sister, Julie Kiefer Donlon; many nieces and nephews; and his sheepdog, Annie.

Log on to CITS University Gains Computer Room Space

Recently, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) acquired some much-needed computer room space at 300 W. Lexington St. A short distance from the campus, this building has high-speed connections to the campus fiber-optic network backbone and to its high-speed research networks. Approximately 3,200 square feet, the room will house equipment from overcrowded campus computer rooms, production systems, backup systems, school and departmental equipment, and equipment for high-performance computing. The room also will serve as a storage facility for faculty research projects and for continuity purposes. Two important advisory groups are being formed to help with the development and use of this space. First, a faculty research computing support advisory group will provide input regarding computing needs and requirements and help create an implementation, use,

and sustainability model so that the space can effectively support the needs of faculty research projects. In addition, an information technology advisory group will discuss and review needs and requirements, develop space and technical design specifications, and make recommendations regarding the contemporary tools, technologies, and technical support needed for this space. The value of this newly acquired room is the creation of a UMB computing facility that synthesizes a common computing infrastructure with computing systems, specific applications, and data storage all linked by a high-speed network across campus and to the outside world. To learn more about this space or to volunteer for the advisory groups, please contact the Center for Information Technology Services at 6-1117 or help@umaryland.edu.

New Research Into Cocaine Exposure Before Birth Yields Positive Results



Maureen Black

KAREN BUCKELEW

Children exposed to cocaine in the womb face serious consequences from the drug, but fortunately not in certain critical physical and cognitive areas as previously believed, according to a new comprehensive review of research on the subject from scientists at the School of Medicine.

When a pregnant woman uses cocaine, it can interrupt the flow of nutrients and oxygen to the baby, putting such children at risk for premature birth, low birth weight, and many other problems. The new review of multiple major studies conducted on cocaine-exposed, school-aged children found this negative impact significantly affected children in subtle areas such as sustained attention and self-regulated behavior. The research, however, showed surprisingly little impairment directly from cocaine in key areas such as growth, IQ, academic achievement, and language functioning.

Many of the children did have low IQ and poor academic and language achievement. The research suggested, though, that these apparent impairments were often caused by the troublesome home environment that goes along with cocaine use, rather than directly from the cocaine itself.

The developmental areas that the cocaine exposure seemed to directly impact—sustained attention and self-regulated behavior—could become significantly problematic as children grow into adults. The review was published in the March 1 issue of *Pediatrics*. It is the first review of cocaine-exposed school-age children 6 and older; a previous review looked at younger children.

When rates of cocaine use began to rise in America in the 1980s, there was concern

that children who had been exposed to the drug or its derivative, crack cocaine, *in utero* were doomed to a lifetime of poor health, subpar performance in school, behavioral problems, and eventually to substance abuse themselves. The new review indicates otherwise, and could change the way medicine and social science approach outreach to and study of cocaine-exposed children, according to senior author Maureen Black, PhD, professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine.

“Cocaine can disrupt fetal growth and development, but this review tells us that just because a child has been exposed to cocaine, it is not a foregone conclusion that they’re going to be in trouble,” says Black. “No one is saying cocaine use is good. We need prevention programs so women don’t use cocaine in the first place. Children experience serious negative effects from drug exposure in the womb. It looks, though, as if cocaine doesn’t work alone. Women who use cocaine are often from poor and dysfunctional families, where children do not receive the care and enrichment they need. In addition, women who use cocaine while pregnant often smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol as well, exposing their unborn children to legal substances with extremely negative consequences.”

Black and her colleagues reviewed 32 major studies of school-age children, ages 6 through their teenage years, conducted between 1980 and 2008. All of the studies compared children who had been exposed to cocaine to those who had not.

The areas where children showed significant negative impact from cocaine could lead to serious problems in adolescence or adulthood. “They might have difficulty with

impulse control and they might be risk-takers,” says Black. “They might be more likely to be involved with drugs themselves.”

Innovative techniques, including neuro-imaging, have suggested that cocaine exposure impacts specific brain structures and functions. The cocaine-exposed children seem to have differences in both white and gray matter, for example.

The results suggest that the prevention efforts should continue to target reducing drug use among women, especially during pregnancy, but such outreach should continue after the child’s birth. Education and support to help caregivers improve the child’s environment might be very beneficial to children exposed to cocaine, Black says. The research will continue to examine the specific areas of the brain that may be vulnerable to cocaine exposure in the hopes of linking neural differences with behavioral outcomes.

“Dr. Black’s review has uncovered an entirely new way of thinking about these most vulnerable victims of substance abuse, the children exposed to drugs before birth,” says E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, dean of the School of Medicine, and acting president of University of Maryland, Baltimore. “I am hopeful her work will lead to new interventions to prevent prenatal cocaine exposure at the start, and to ensure the success of these children for the benefit of their own health and public health as a whole.”



Jacques Ravel

STEVE BERBERICH

Perhaps the most comprehensive, multi-institutional study yet of the sexually transmitted bacteria chlamydia is under way at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).

A new \$12.2 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will allow a team of

University Heads \$12.2 Million Study of Chlamydia

scientists to perform molecular genomics analyses of the disease-causing powers of the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis* on a scale never attempted before, according to NIH officials.

The team will apply precise genome mapping of changes that happen to the bacteria as they interact within their natural environment with other microbes in the body. The multidisciplinary expertise of the team brings a unique approach to the study, and it is anticipated that the results will greatly advance scientific understanding of chlamydia, a major cause of infertility in women.

Microbiologist Patrik Bavoil, PhD, professor at the Dental School, who has expertise in the virulence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and researcher Jacques Ravel, PhD, MSc, associate professor at the School of Medicine’s Institute for Genome Sciences and an expert in microbial genomics, will lead the five-year project.

The scientific team includes experts in clinical human STD studies and others in biostatistical and bioinformatics data analysis. The multidisciplinary team will

use state-of-the art genomic technologies to characterize the relationship between chlamydial infections and the vaginal microbiome, as well as to investigate genomic diversity for this highly relevant public health issue.

In recent years, chlamydia passed gonorrhea as the leading sexually transmitted bacterial pathogen in the U.S. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 1,030,911 chlamydial infections reported in 2006, and it is believed to be greatly under-reported.

“We have assembled a multidisciplinary team that integrates ecological, genomics, clinical, and molecular analyses to study chlamydial infections,” says Ravel. “As a team, we have the expertise and breadth to use a combination of newly developed bioinformatics and genomic tools to better understand the molecular mechanisms that drive both chlamydial infections and the host microbiota in the reproductive tract.”

Register for UMB Alerts

E2Campus is the new vendor for UMB Alerts—the system used by the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s (UMB) Emergency Management Team to notify the UMB community about emergencies and weather-related campus closings. UMB Alerts messages will be sent out via campus phones and campus e-mail accounts. Users also can register personal devices capable of receiving SMS text messages, such as cell phones, Blackberrys or pagers. To sign up for UMB Alerts, click on the *Alerts/Urgent Info* link on the campus main Web page and follow the directions.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Benefits Fair, Open Enrollment Slated for April

The annual Employee Benefits Fair will be held in early April. The event, which provides information on benefits for University staff and faculty during the upcoming fiscal year, precedes the yearly open enrollment period.

The benefits fair also will include free health screenings. The theme is UMBE Well and Go Green.

Open enrollment for benefits during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, is April 14 to 28. Other than the start of employment or an event that changes family status—such as a marriage or divorce, or the birth of a child—open enrollment is the only time that changes can be made to benefits.

For more information, visit www.br.umaryland.edu/benefits.

Medical School Conducts Legislative Advocacy

About 40 representatives from the School of Medicine, including E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, dean of the School of Medicine, and acting president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, attended Maryland legislative sessions in the state capital recently and met with lawmakers. Former University President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, also participated in the daylong event, which was part of the University's annual series of advocacy activities during the Maryland General Assembly session.

Senator Donald Munson met with Frank Calia, MD, MACP, vice dean for clinical

affairs, and Department of Medicine chair, as well as with students Tiffany Kimbrough, Samuel Livingston, and Bryce Olenczak. Among the topics discussed were a shortage of health care providers in Maryland and loan repayment help for medical students. "I appreciate you coming," Munson said. "This is what democracy is all about, and it's nice to see it attended to by such intelligent, motivated, and focused people."

Both houses of the General Assembly passed resolutions commending the School for its work with the University of Wisconsin, Madison to complete the genomic sequences of common-cold viruses. Lawmakers also praised the School for its growth in medical research and for the economic boost research provides to the state.

To see a video of the day's activities, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwXuDAkm9Qk.

Law School Film on Oscar Shortlist

The Response, a short film made at the School of Law and written by law school alumnus Sig Libowitz, JD '07, was among the 10 finalists this year for an Academy Award in the category of live action short film.

The 30-minute movie is a fictional courtroom drama about a military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The story was gleaned from transcripts of real tribunals of suspected terrorists detained at the facility.

A reviewing committee at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences chose *The Response* and nine other short films as finalists for the award after viewing 71 entries. *The Response* was not among the five short

films announced in February as nominees.

The film, which features movie and TV actors Peter Riegert, Aasif Mandvi, and Kate Mulgrew, was funded by the School of Law's Linking Law & the Arts program. Several students worked on the project.

The Response has won awards including a Silver Gavel Award Top Prize for Drama and Literature from the American Bar Association and the audience award for best film at the 2009 Politics on Film Festival in Washington, D.C.

Mouth Indicates Overall Health, Says Dental School Professor

One day in medical clinics, the big picture of a patient's state of health may be found in little pictures from the mouth, says Li Mao, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences at the Dental School. The mouth or oral cavity area is an excellent indicator of the whole body's health, he says. Mao recently joined the Dental School, he says, to be at the forefront of a movement to retool dental education and make dentistry more integrated into the larger health care community. Lung cancer prevention trials, for example, could soon be designed so that surface tissues inside the cheek can be checked to detect tobacco-induced damage in the lungs, according to a study led by Mao last year and published in the journal *Cancer Prevention Research*.

"We hypothesized that tobacco-induced molecular alterations in the oral epithelium are similar to those in the lungs," says Mao. "This might have broader implications for

using the mouth as a diagnostic indicator for general health."

Breakthrough Made in Kidney Disease Research

Researchers at the School of Medicine have made an important discovery about why potassium can build up to dangerous levels in the bloodstream in kidney disease patients.

The researchers have identified a new molecular pathway and a new class of molecules responsible for preventing potassium from being excreted normally through the kidney. Their study, funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, was recently published in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*. The researchers hope their discovery will lead to the development of a new class of drugs to treat the condition known as hyperkalemia, which can cause cardiac arrest if not treated promptly.

"We are particularly excited about the translational potential of our basic science discovery," says Paul Welling, MD, professor of physiology at the School of Medicine. "Currently, there are no drugs that specifically target the molecular defect in kidney potassium retention."

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, dean of the School of Medicine, and acting UMB president, says the findings are critical in the care of patients with kidney disease from conditions such as diabetes. "This type of basic science research will translate into important clinical therapies for patient care in the future," Reece says.

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CALENDAR

March 23: New Evidence on the Role of Race and Ethnicity in Breast Cancer, featuring guest speaker Otis Brawley, MD, chief medical and scientific officer and executive vice president of the American Cancer Society. 4 to 5:30 p.m., School of Nursing. Free admission. For more information, call 6-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu.

April 13: School of Pharmacy Student Research Day. 1 to 4 p.m., MSTF atrium.

April 14-16: Conference on Nursing Practice Based on Evidence: Patient Quality at Risk. School of Nursing. For more information, call 6-3767 or visit www.nursing.umaryland.edu.

April 14-28: Annual benefits open enrollment period. More information will be provided in the April issue of the *VOICE* or visit www.hr.umaryland.edu/benefits/index.cfm.

April 28: Novel Neural Messengers: Disease Relevance, School of Pharmacy Grollman-Glick Endowed Lecture, featuring guest speaker Solomon Snyder, MD, DSc, DPhil (Hon. Causa), distinguished service professor of neuroscience, pharmacology, and psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. 2 p.m., MSTF auditorium.

Despite Snow, Environmental Law Competition Mushes On



Environmental Law Program Director Robert Percival (left), the winning University of Pennsylvania team, and Assistant Professor Shruti Rana (far right) brave the snow for the law school's moot court competition.

CARRIE OLEYNIK

Despite record snowfall in the mid-Atlantic region, teams from eight states gathered at the School of Law Feb. 5 and 6 for the 14th Annual International Environmental Moot Court Competition North American Atlantic Rounds.

Scheduled to begin just hours before one of the largest snowstorms in Baltimore history and last throughout the weekend, the competition seemed destined for postponement. But competitors had already arrived from across the eastern half of the U.S., and the competition continued.

The event would not have been possible without the efforts of many, including the Environmental Law Program's Laura Mrozek and Suzann Langrall, and the law school's Event Services and Media Services staff. Additionally, a group of alumni, jurists, practitioners, and professors, as well as student volunteers, remained at the School to support the competition.

The winning team was from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The runner-up team was from Wake Forest University School of Law. The other semi-final teams were from the University of Wisconsin Law School and the Cleveland-

Marshall College of Law. "Weather Warrior" awards were presented to the teams from the John Marshall Law School and the University of Wisconsin.

As host of the Atlantic Rounds, the University of Maryland team was asked to compete during the Pacific Rounds of the competition at Chapman University School of Law in Orange County, Calif., this past January. The team of three students from the School—Molly Knoll, April Morton, and William Tilburg (with coaches Adjunct Professors David Mandell, JD, and Karla Schaffer, JD)—won the Pacific Rounds after having swept three rounds against Southwestern Law School, University of California, Hastings College of Law, and defeating Hastings during the final round.

From March 11 to 14, the team will compete in the International Finals at Stetson University College of Law against the University of Pennsylvania and teams from India, Ghana, Kenya, China, Ireland, Ukraine, Brazil, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

"Being able to compete against teams from all over the world is an incredible opportunity, and I'm looking forward to meeting students—particularly students with an interest in environmental issues—from other nations," said Morton. "Our team is lucky to have such experienced and knowledgeable coaches and a supportive Environmental Law Program."

COURTESY OF ROBERT PERCIVAL

AROUND CAMPUS

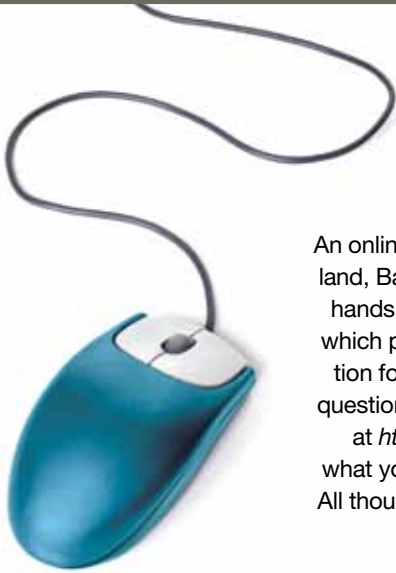


University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Force officers Cpl. Predest Davis, Sgt. Ralph Green, Cpl. Thomas Darnell, Cpl. Eugene Douglas, and Pfc. Tyrell Fleming marched as the honor guard in the Baltimore City parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 18.

PATRICIA FANNING

VOICE Your Opinion

Visit the VOICE online blog



An online version of the *VOICE*, the University of Maryland, Baltimore's campus newsletter, the paper in your hands, is coming soon. The Office of External Affairs, which publishes the *VOICE*, is re-creating the publication for the Web and we want your suggestions, your questions, and your brilliant ideas. Visit our online blog at <http://umbvoice.wordpress.com> and let us know what you'd like to see in the *VOICE*'s new incarnation. All thoughts are welcome—so get your reader's hat on and start thinking!

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